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URGENT IMPROVEMENT
OF FAR EASTERN FISHING INDUSTRY

During the years of the postwar Stalin Five-Year Plan which have already elapsed, the fishing industry of the Soviet Far East has considerably expanded and consolidated its productive and technical facilities. The maritime fishermen have had huge successes. They have attained perfect mastery of the fishing business, and have brought in huge catches in their own fishing boats. The fishermen of Kamchatka and Okhotsk also, in 1947, exceeded the 1940 level in all fishing operations in these waters.

The South Sakhalin fishing industry has changed radically in 3 years. The Japanese industrialists did not have technically equipped coastal facilities, and directed the greater part of their fish into manufacture of fertilizer and low-quality, fresh-dried products unsuitable for the discerning tastes of the Soviet consumer.

The Soviet South Sakhalin fishing industry faces the herring season with its salting facilities in perfect order, a fact which assures the highest quality of processed herring. Extensive mechanization in 1947 - 1948 of herring-unloading operations at processing points eased the task of the workers and made possible an increase in labor productivity. As early as 1948, the Sakhalin fishing industry had dozens of fish pumps, designed to unload hundreds of thousands of centners of fish.

Although the Far Eastern fishing industry exceeded the task set for it by the Five-Year Plan in 1947, it did not fulfill the 1948 plan. The basic reason for this failure was that the Kamchatka segment of the industry underestimated the number of boats to be assigned to deep-sea fishing and depended too much on a huge run of fish in the spawning season.

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Maritime fishermen had found that the annual catch could be considerably increased by engaging in deep-sea fishing through a prolonged fishing season. Unfortunately, this experience was not fully followed up by fishermen of other regions than those of Kamchatka. Yet, deep-sea fishing must be expanded, since a fishing season extended over many months of the year will result in greater stability of catch than a shorter season influenced by meteorological conditions.

Although the 1948 catch in the Far East exceeded the total catch in 1940 and the variety of fish products was considerably improved, still both the quantity and especially the quality of fish caught in the Far East do not satisfy the diversified demands of consumers in our country. That is why a considerable increase in the output of frozen, canned, and lightly salted fish and herring is specified in the 1949 plan. This involves variety in the types of fish which make up the catch. The salmon and herring catch is to be sharply increased. The mackerel catch, the higher-quality part of which will be canned, will also be increased.

Beside a concentrated effort for accomplishment of the fish catching and processing plan, much work will be done in 1949 in reconstructing the coastal facilities and expanding the fishing and transport fleet.

Hundreds of millions of rubles are to be spent on capital construction. Dozens of new enterprises will be put into operation. The fishing and transport fleet will be enlarged by hundreds of boats. About 50,000 square meters of new living space will be assigned to the fishermen, workers, and engineering and technical personnel. These great tasks will demand vast effort, initiative, flexibility, and profound knowledge on the part of the workers of the fishing industry.

One of the prerequisites for achieving the fishing plan is preparation for the fishing season. Timely repair of the fishing and transport vessels, putting the salting vats, cannery production lines, and refrigerators in order, and proper placement of personnel, all make up a practical preparation program for the supervisors of the fishing industry. Special care must be given by the directors and chief engineers of the enterprises to the mechanical equipment and its correct use by properly trained technical personnel. Before the season begins, all mechanized equipment must be carefully tested.

Successful achievement of the goals assigned to the workers of the Far Eastern fishing industry definitely depends on the development of socialist competition with the aim of fulfilling the 1949 plan ahead of schedule. A 15,000-centner catch by a leading maritime fishing-boat crew will inspire all fishermen of the Far East to achieve an even higher record. The task of the supervisory, engineering, and technical personnel of the fishing enterprises will be to head the socialist competition, and to organize exchange of the experiences of leading enterprises, ships, fishing boats, and of all leading persons in the enterprises.

Facing the Far Eastern fishing industry in 1949 are also the great tasks of improving the quality and variety of products, decreasing production costs, accumulating savings, and accelerating turnover of working capital.

The leading enterprises in Moscow have begun a great movement to increase turnover of working capital. This movement must be picked up by all enterprises of the fishing industry in the Far East and put into practice, so as to improve and consolidate their financial position and release tens of millions of rubles for the national economy.

The tasks set for the fishermen of the Far East in 1949 are indeed great, but the aid given each year to the fishing industry by the government is also huge. The fishermen of the Far East will honorably cope with these tasks, and fulfill the Fourth Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule.

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